

APRIL  
2025



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Monroe, Wisconsin

Grace Ev. Lutheran Church  
1025—15th Avenue  
Monroe, WI 53566

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MONROE, WI 53566  
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Return Service Requested

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

The readings used in worship the past several weeks have been from the prophets. They have called the people back to a place of faithfulness before judgement is meted out and then to a place of hope as they endured exile. The Babylonians attacked and leveled Jerusalem and the Temple. They also returned to Babylon with many Israelites as exiles. During the time in that foreign land, many renewed their efforts to be mindful of the covenant God had with them.

Generation after generation living in exile was far from easy, but the Israelites looked forward to the time when they would return to the Promised Land. God remained faithful to the covenant and cared for the people during that time. King Darius of Persia defeated the Babylonians and allowed the Israelites to go back to Jerusalem and rebuild the Temple and their lives. The time of re-building and re-constituting were not easy, but the Israelites endeavored to remember they were the people of God.

This sets a tone through out the season of Lent. The season is forty days long (not counting Sundays). It culminates with Holy Week and the crucifixion which leads to the Easter celebration. Lent is a time to reflect upon the human condition and make confession. These are days to consider God’s on-going presence with us and the love that is shared through Jesus Christ. This love leads to sacrifice. Lent is a time to recognize we are strangers in a foreign land. Maybe not by borders, language or culture, but by faith and living a holy life. Living that sanctified life is only possible through presence and love of Jesus.

As God remained faithful to the Israelites in exile and their return, God is present with us during all our less than easy days. Lent and its disciplines (fasting, prayer and giving to the poor) encourage us to recognize that our reliance is truly upon God rather than ourselves. Use these days ahead to reflect upon your life, God’s presence in it and where perhaps God is calling you.

Pastor John

APRIL BAPTISMS

Sara Ackerman	Jay Goebel	George Kint
Larry Newcomer	Sheri Novak	Martha Scherer
Jerrica Stiner	Jane Swiggum	Chris Alston
Alexandra Kubly	Jean Meyer	Jaden Leistiko
John Kielty	Marty Balsiger	Taryn Bomkamp
Patty Scheider	Ben Tredinnick	Clara Ackerman
Jeanette Ackerman	Connie Cline	John Dieckhoff
Dan Bestul	Jeri Johnson	Brecken Allen
Kristine Leck	Kelsey Plagge	Quinn Schultz
Richard Carpenter	Ashton Nickel	Michael Reynolds
Samantha Becherer	Luke Patterson	Kaitlin Carpenter
Caitlynn Kamps	Courtney Jackson	Erik Everson
Allyce Fahrney	Dorene Fahrney	Dee Larson
Ellen Mathiason	Anikah Rath	Janice Everson

**We’re sorry if we missed your April baptism. If you don’t see your baptism here please call to let us know of your baptismal date so that we may include your name next time!**

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APRIL WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Les & Laurie Kruse

Ron & Glenda Camron

John & Tereesa Schroeder

Tom & Donna Ackerman

Duane & Regina Weber



**We’re sorry if we missed your April anniversary. Please call the office to let us know of your anniversary date so that we may include your name next year!**

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## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Marcia Crawford	4/1
Robert Derendinger	4/1
Mary Jo Hasler	4/1
Addison White	4/1
Charles Zeitler	4/1
Dee Larson	4/2
Hannah Vetterli	4/2
Isla Bolan	4/3
Karen Helton	4/3
Zackery Roper	4/3
Wendy Trost	4/3
Kristen Ault	4/4
Karen Smith	4/4
Brandon White	4/4
John Kielty	4/5
Karen Redies	4/5
Kurt Baldauf	4/6
Angie Goth	4/6
Gregory Holthaus	4/6
Dylan Wahler	4/6
Brinlee Chapman	4/7
Megan Chapman	4/7
Ranee Ellefson-Jones	4/7
Mark Lindsay	4/7
Dee Signer	4/7
Traci Schultz	4/8
Jordan Herbst	4/9
Vickie Marie Cloutier	4/10



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Cole Plagge	4/11
Maynard Heins	4/13
Helen Johnson	4/13
Maggie O'Brien	4/14
Kimberly Rielly	4/14
Timothy Hakanson	4/15
Tina Wahler	4/15
Fritz Graber	4/16
Flynn Carlson	4/17
Astrid Wunschel	4/17
Michael Campbell Hauser	4/19
Kylie Miller	4/19
Bruce Breisath	4/20
Sharon Smith	4/20
Krisann Holthaus	4/21
Julie Robieson	4/21
Lily Olson	4/22
Brooks Weimer	4/24
Kory Blacklock	4/25
Larry Grossen	4/26
Gary Guralski	4/26
Michael Kielty	4/26
Haylee Whipple	4/26
Wayne Ufken	4/27
Ellie Scherer	4/28
Kodi Ellefson-Jones	4/29
Curt Kolden	4/29

**We are sorry if we missed your April birthday. Please call the office to let us know of your birthdate so that we may include your name next year!**

## Serving in April 2025

### LITURGISTS

Sat., April 5.....Beth Faith  
Sun., April 6.....Nikki Austin

Sat., April 12.....Ed Kallas  
Sun., April 13.....Open

Thu., April 17, 6:30 PM.....Open  
Fri., April 18, 6:30 PM.....Open  
Sat., April 19, 5:00 PM.....Open  
Sun., April 20, 8:00 AM.....Bill Helton  
Sun., April 20, 10:00 AM.....Bill Helton

Sat., April 26.....Ed Kallas  
Sun., April 27.....Nikki Austin

*Please consider serving as a Liturgist on a Saturday afternoon at 5PM or Sunday morning at 9AM. See the sign-up on the office door. Thanks to all who assist!*

### ALTAR FLOWERS

The altar area remains bare during Lent. Flowers will again decorate the church beginning on Easter Saturday!

### MISSIONARY SPONSORS

April 5 & 6.....Available

April 12 & 13.....George Kint

April 19 & 20.....Martha Scherer

April 26 & 27.....Women of Grace

*You can sponsor our missionary family for \$35/week. There is a sign up calendar near the entry way. If you would like to sponsor our missionaries in honor or memory of a special person or event, just call the office to let us know!*

### SATURDAY EVENING MUSICIANS

Sat., April 5.....Sarah Johanson  
Sat., April 12.....Maynard Heins  
Sat., April 19.....Pending  
Sat., April 26.....Lance Sathoff

### ALTAR GUILD

Flower Committee for April 2025

CHURCH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

Scott Christiansen (*President*) (scott.christiansen@sccompanies.com).....608-558-6161  
Katy Dickson (christensensfarm@gmail.com).....608-214-3525  
Karen Helton (heltonkarenm2@gmail.com.....919-480-5360  
Jeri Johnson (*Secretary*) (jerijohnson1216@gmail.com).....608-214-5386  
Sam Mathiason (*Vice-President*) (sammathiason@gmail.com).....608-698-6612  
Deb Myers (debkm1975@gmail.com).....773-620-6475  
John Patterson .....(jskpat@tds.net)  
Lance Sathoff (*Treasurer*) (lsathoff@yahoo.com).....608-558-1038  
Gloria Scherer (moveme@tds.net).....608-214-6646  
Ariel Thomas (arielbobbie00@gmail.com).....608-558-4840

GRACE EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA  
Phone: 608-325-9172

WEBSITE: [www.gracelcmonroe.org](http://www.gracelcmonroe.org)

Worship Schedule  
Saturday, 5:00 PM & Sunday, 9:00 AM

Winter Office Hours  
Monday-Friday, 8:30—12:00/1:00– 4:30 PM

**Pastor:** Pastor John J. Tabaka E-mail: [pastortabaka@tds.net](mailto:pastortabaka@tds.net)  
**Visitation Pastor:** Rev. Richard Thickpenny  
**Custodian:** Terry Kolanda  
**Director of Music/Church Musician:** Ann Uresk  
**Financial Secretary:** Laurie Kruse  
**Secretarial Staff:** Deacon Beth Faith ([gracelc@tds.net](mailto:gracelc@tds.net))



*“For it is by God’s Grace that you have been saved by Faith”*

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# APRIL 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 9:15 AM, Bible Study 5:00 PM, Lenten Supper 5:30 PM, Praise Singers 6:30 PM, Holden Eve Prayer 7:15 PM, Choir Practice	3	4	5 5:00 PM, Worship
6 9:00 AM, Worship 10:15 AM, Sunday School 10:15 AM, First Communion Class	7	8 2:00 PM, Women of Grace Steering Committee 4:00 PM, Memorial 5:30 PM, Staff Support	9 9:15 AM, Bible Study 5:00 PM, Lenten Supper 5:30 PM, Praise Singers 6:30 PM, Holden Eve Prayer 7:15 PM, Choir Practice	10 8:30 AM, Quilters Group	11	12 5:00 PM, Worship
13 <b>PALM SUNDAY</b> 9:00 AM, Worship 10:15 AM, Sunday School	14	15 3:45 PM, Christian Life	16 NO Bible Study	17 6:30 PM, Maundy Thursday Worship	18 6:30 PM, Good Friday Worship	19 5:00 PM, Easter Eve Worship
20 <b>EASTER SUNDAY</b> 8:00 or 10:00 AM, Easter Day Worship NO Sunday School	21 12:30 PM, Lydia Circle Meets	22	23 9:15 AM, Bible Study 5:30 PM, Praise Singers 6:00 PM, Adult Choir 6:00 PM, Confirmation & Bible Study 6:00 PM, Finance Committee 7:00 PM, Hand Chimes	24 8:30 AM, Quilters Group	25	26 5:00 PM, Worship
27 9:00 AM, Worship 10:15 AM, Sunday School 4:00 PM, Loaves & Fishes Free Community Meal	28 7:00 PM, Church Council	29	30 9:15 AM, Bible Study 5:30 PM, Praise Singers 6:00 PM, Adult Choir 6:00 PM, Confirmation & Bible Study 7:00 PM, Hand Chimes			

**Grace Lutheran Church Council Meeting  
February 24, 2025**

Called to order at 7:00 by Scott Christiansen, Council President.  
**Members Present:** Ariel Thomas, Scott Christiansen, Jeri Johnson, Gloria Scherer, Katy Dickson, John Patterson, Sam Mathiason, Deb Myers, Karen Helton, Pastor John Tabaka  
**Members Absent:** Lance Sathoff  
**Devotions:** Sam Mathiason  
**Secretarial Report:** Written report by Jeri. Motion to approve minutes of 1-27-2025 Council Meeting by John; seconded by Katy. Motion carried.  
**Treasurer’s and Finance Committee Reports:** Report by Scott. The boiler repair was \$2,000. Over \$200,000 has been raised for our new roof. There will be another letter going out March 1st about fundraising for the new roof. Motion to approve report by Ariel. Katy seconded. Motion carried.  
**Committee Reports**  
**Christian Life**—Katy reported a bowling night is planned for Friday night and that this committee has planned the March 12th Lenten supper before the church service.  
**Memorial**—Written report John.  
**Mutual Ministry**—No meeting.  
**Parish Education**—No meeting.  
**Property Committee**—Ariel reported the bids for the roof will all soon be in and a congregational meeting is set for March 30th to make decisions about the new roof.  
**Staff Support**—Sam reported the Employee Handbook is done. They are planning the Lenten supper for March 19th.  
**Women of Grace**—Gloria reported that they are working on making the blankets for the graduates this May. The blankets will be presented to the graduates in church on May 18th.  
**Worship & Music**—No meeting.  
**Pastor’s Thoughts:** Welcome to a new year and to our new members. The confirmation Bible study class will not be meeting during Lent and will resume after Easter.  
**New Business**—The special congregational meeting on Sunday, March 30th after church will be to update the congregation on the roof fund and decide on a vendor to begin.

Motion to adjourn by John. Seconded by Sam.  
  
Meeting ended with the Lord’s Prayer.  
  
Next meeting March 24, 2025.

Jeri Johnson, Secretary

**MARCH PARISH ACTIONS**

**BAPTISM**



Arlo Michael Kinney, son of Abbigail Leck  
March 6, 2025

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**HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

Thu., April 17	6:30 PM, Maundy Thursday Service w/Communion
Fri., April 18	6:30 PM, Good Friday Tenebrae Service
Sat., April 19	5:00 PM, Easter Eve Vigil Service
Sun, April 20	8:00 & 10:00 AM, Festive Easter Day Worship



**CHURCH DIRECTORY APPEAL** We have volunteers that are beginning to work on an in-house pictorial directory. Watch for more information in the weeks ahead, and there is still room for volunteers if you would like to assist! Call the office at 325-9172.

**THRIVENT DOLLARS AT WORK!** Thanks to the members of Thrivent Financial that designate Grace Lutheran as the recipient of their “Choice Dollars”, in 2024 we received donations of \$6,081! Thanks to all who remember Grace in your giving!

## THIS MONTH WE HIGHLIGHT OUR PROPERTY COMMITTEE!

Our church facility is where church happens and it is our Property Committee that makes sure Grace Lutheran is maintained so we can fulfill our mission. The following is a list of property committee responsibilities.

1. General maintenance of systems in the building such as boilers, air conditioners, elevators, etc.
2. Working with our custodian to see that the church is kept clean.
3. Maintenance of outdoor church grounds.
4. Creating a pleasing environment by making recommendations on furnishings, décor color themes, and signage for the church.
5. Being sure members and guests are safe and recommending things that could be improved.
6. Identifying equipment needs and ensuring that all necessary items are available and in good working order.

At present the Property Committee has been working closely with our Roof Committee to raise funds, get quotes and weigh the pros and cons of various roof options so they could make an informed recommendation at the recent Congregational Meeting in March.

We are grateful to the dedicated members of this group who volunteer their time to make our church facility functions smoothly. If you would be interested in joining this group, please contact any of the members listed below:

Larry Rood, Dick Nelson, Shane Olson, Ken Chapin, Louis Scherer, Carl Huber, Bill Holland, Ariel Thomas (Council Rep) and Scott Christansen.

## GREEN COUNTY INTER-CHURCH FOOD

**PANTRY** is a busy place on Mondays from 2-4:30 PM and Wednesdays from 9-11:30 AM. There are many folks who receive assistance from the Pantry, and that is why your donations are so important. Two items most needed presently are soups & tuna fish. Donations of money are also necessary. The Pantry can purchase many times the amount of groceries with your cash donations. Thank you for your support of the Green County Food Pantry. You are making a difference in the lives of many individuals and families in our community.



**LOAVES & FISHES INVITES YOU TO DINNER THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT 4PM!** The entire community is invited to attend a meal together the 4th Sunday of each month at Grace Lutheran Church from 4-6 PM. This meal is open to anyone, and is free. Please consider dropping by! Volunteers are always sought as well!

**WALK BY FAITH** Join the Walk by Faith walking group. We are starting a walking group at Grace. It will be a fun and healthy way to connect with each other. We will meet on the **2nd Saturday** of each month beginning in April. Check the newsletter for locations each month.

**Mark your calendars:**

Date: **Saturday, April 12th**

Time: 9:30am

Location: Grace Lutheran

**DINNERS FOR SIX** We had a great time at our Dinner for Six in February and March. Everyone enjoyed visiting with each other and we ate delicious food! If you would like to join Dinner for Six please sign up at the church office or call Regina Weber at 608-329-6339. Dinner for Six is held once a month and is an opportunity to learn to know each other. Come join us. We would enjoy getting to know you!!!